

# **Silver Spring Urban District Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **September 21, 2006**

*We do apology for the minutes not being up to the normal standards but the recorder was not operated correctly by the Director.*

**Members Present:** Edward Baca-Asher, Genny Hardesty, Barbara Henry, Charles Atwell, and Bob Middleton, Renee Okon, Jon Lourie, Abrielle Anderson, Pete Esker, Nancy Schwiesow

**Members Absent:** Charles Atwell, Bryant Foulger

**Guest:** Jane Redicker, Mitch Cunningham, Pat Harris, David Chikvashvili

**Staff:** Gary Stith, Susan Hoffmann, and Jerry Sanford

**Welcome/Introductions** – Genny Hardesty, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

#### **Minutes:**

The Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee (UDAC) adopted the June 2006 minutes with one abstention.

The Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee (UDAC) unanimously adopted the July 2006 minutes as submitted.

#### **Chairs Report:**

Genny Hardesty

Recapped the mission and direction stated in June Task Force or Committee at the Chamber Commerce to keep focus on SS

Parking

Silver Spring Transit Center (SSTC)

#### **Election of Vice Chair**

The Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee unanimously elected Barbara Henry as the new Vice Chair.

#### **Farewell**

The Urban District Advisory Committee thanked Commander Mitch Cunningham for his great leadership and being a good friend and wished him the best in his new endeavor. Commander Cunningham was given a gift of appreciation.

### **Police Update**

Mitch Cunningham reported that:

- There was a fatality on Colesville at East-West Highway and we are working with Tom Harmon to double the enforcement
- 9/11 security coverage around the Metro was increased
- There was a demonstration at NOAA that was conducted by an organization that had Global Climate concerns. The demonstration was held without incident
- Intersection at Ellsworth and Fenton. There have been major incidents at this intersection but we have extra enforcement in place.
- We had coverage for the Jazz Festival and there where no incidents.
- Lt. Steve Auger will be covering downtown Silver Spring and replaces Lt. Wahl
- Commander Betsy Davis was introduced to the Committee. She will be replacing Capt. Cunningham as the Commander for the Third District.

### **Marketing and Special Events**

Susan Hoffmann reported that:

- The Jazz Festival was a success with an estimated crowd throughout the day of 20,000. Border's is going to contribute 10% of all Jazz Festival sales to the Celebrate Downtown Silver Spring Foundation which helps underwrite this and other events.
- Thanks to Gary Stith Lu Wilson, Jerry Sanford, Silver Spring Urban District staff and Sgt. Harmon and Montgomery County Police for their help at the Jazz Festival.
- TV Channel 9 and the Voice of America are interested in being involved in the 2007 Jazz Festival.
- Update on Magical Montgomery and weekend road closures will include Ellsworth up to the garage opening

### **949-957 Bonifant Street**

Pat Harris presented proposal for 949 to 961 Bonifant. The plan is an optional method, 90ft - 8 to 9 stories, 72 residential units, no retail space, and seventy-two parking spaces under the building. 20 percent of the site is public use space causing the building to be set back. There will be some off site streetscape improvements. Possible condo or rented apartments will be decided later. Owner prefers rental. This space is presently occupied by two old homes reconstructed to fit seven small businesses and a large two story brick/cement block building housing a Karate and empty store. Park and Planning filing date-Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Stith raised the concern that this proposed project which conforms to the zoning regulations does not have retail space and provides a very small public use space that does not contribute a functional open space area to downtown. He suggested that the Committee may want to discuss the impact of these requirements at a future meeting.

### **Montgomery Hills Improvements**

David Chikvashvili gave a brief overview as follows:

- The goal of the Montgomery Hills Pedestrian Linkages is to make improvement that address immediate needs and an “interim” step given master plan recommendation
- Improve pedestrian circulation, safety and accessibility
- Replace deteriorated sidewalks, widening sidewalks to 5’ where feasible
- Provide additional, pedestrian scale lightning along side streets
- Beautification by providing landscaping (trees and shrubs)
- Create a sense of place through strategic placement of banners as a gateway feature on Georgia Avenue and on the side street light poles
- Coordinate work with Silver Spring Regional Center, Department Public Works & Transportation and State Highway Administration to restripe crosswalks
- Provide additional signage and maintain improvements
- The Budget amount is \$600,000 from Montgomery Hills Parking Lot District
- Sidewalk section replacement should be later this year before cold weather sets in (no Mandatory Referral required). Other work should start Spring 2007 with expected completion by June 2007
- We would like to request from the Committee a letter of support for the Mandatory Referral Submission to M-NCCPPC

### **Parking Update**

Rick Siebert gave a brief presentation of several new design options for Garage 21 (Spring and Colesville). The garage will be closed for 18 months to complete the work which will include deck replacement and for safety reasons, new precast panels which will also improve the looks of the garage. Closing the garage down for 18 months will allow the work to be completed before the Untied Therapeutics headquarters offices and the new hotel proposed on Colesville are completed.

Several comments about the design options were made. The PLD will move forward with this project.

### **Guest**

Democratic Nominee for District 20 Delegate Heather Mizeur attend the meeting

### **Urban District**

Jerry Sanford reported that:

- He would be brief with remarks since the meeting was running over the allotted time
- Urban District maintenance staff and contractors have completed the fall annual flower installations

- Gearing up for Silver Spring Town Center, Interim Operations Site, formerly IOF staffing to provide clean and safe services
- Urban District maintenance staff and contractors beginning fall pruning of street trees
- Urban District safety and maintenance staff assisted with logistics for Jazz Festival

### **Director's Report**

- Eagle Bank Opening September 21
- The Urban Land Institute Technical Assistant Panel will be looking at three questions and they are:
  1. How to retain small retail businesses in a changing retail environment?
  2. How to bring in more retail into downtown Silver Spring? People have been concerned that we have a lot of great restaurants and movies, but the retail is still on the weak side.
  3. What to do to help City Place Mall upgrade their offerings?
- The Technical Assistant Panel is made up of volunteer professionals that work in development and design. We are doing a Briefing Book with background information and they will get a tour, meet with stakeholders, small businesses and property owners. On September 27, at 5:00 p.m. at the Urban District Offices, 8110 Georgia Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor we will have a presentation of the ULI Panels recommendations and there will be a published report put out in about six week after the presentation and copies will be made available to the Board and there will be a public presentation of the recommendation on that report. We are just inviting the stakeholders that have been participating in the process, Urban District Advisory Committee, and Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board for the presentation on September 27.
- The Civic Building Design is moving forward. We have the end of design development which is the second phase of the design process and we had to make some value engineering adjustments. We recently met with our stakeholders, people that have been involved in the community with the design process and they were very satisfied with the adjustment and we are prepared to move forward a presentation was held on September 14 at the Round House Black Box Theatre. Construction drawings should be done early in January, sent out for bid, and be prepared to go to contract and start construction in March. Events on the green turf will stop once construction starts and we will have to find another location for our events next year. At the presentation there will be samples of materials, drawings and a presentation on the Memorial Art that is being done by Toby Mendez a well known artist from Frederick, Maryland. Mr. Mendez will be showing a maquette of the work he is proposing to do.
- There will be an Emergency Preparedness Workshop this evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Gwendolyn Coffield Center, 2450 Lyttonsville Road

**Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.**